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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Abiding Interests

I was not surprised to learn from the Rowland Evans and Robert Novak column April 5, "Soviet Freeze Warning," that there is a new secret consensus among U.S. intelligence agencies that the Soviets have already deployed almost 200 mobile intercontinental missiles and they are not abiding by SALT II as previously thought. I heartily concur with the article's conclusion: that the the Soviet deployment of the banned SS16s be "shouted from the treetops" to persuade Americans to oppose premature disarmament.

From my own previous 23½-year experience as a special agent with the FBI, assigned primarily to Soviet counter-intelligence work, I would like to add some suggestions as to what should be "shouted from the treetops."

The American people—and people from the West in general—have difficulty comprehending that the Soviet government is really committed to the idea of dominating the world. It is a concept we have been unable to absorb, possibly because we are unwilling to believe that any government in this day and age is capable of entertaining such a bizarre goal. If this is the reason, it is part of our naivete. We seem to be anxious to forgive, forget and give them the benefit of the doubt. We apparently are willing to overlook past Soviet pronouncements, subterfuges, duplicity, treachery and their longstanding record. We do this at our peril.

Our intelligence agencies have information that should convince even the most skeptical of doubting Thomases that the Soviet government aggressively continues to pursue the goal of world domination. The American people should be made aware of the depth and continuity of Soviet espionage and duplicity, even during periods of our friendliest relations, so that we might better be able to appreciate the enormity of the offensive that the Soviet government has mounted against us.

We should be furnished examples where the Soviets have used detente to strengthen and refine their military might, meanwhile giving us assurances that whatever it was they asked for or acquired would never be used for mili-

provided the Soviet Union with great advantages in areas other than the military.

If some of the cases held by our intelligence agencies were declassified and presented to the public, Americans would be in a far better position to assess Soviet credibility and accept necessary U.S. responses to Soviet actions. This record should be "shouted from the treetops" for the benefit of the American people and the world.

ROBERT W. FEUER

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We can prevent this by ratifying SALT II, or by negotiating and ratifying the nuclear freeze—the real freeze, not the Hollywood fake proposed by arms control opponents.

If we fail to do this, each Soviet missile deployed beyond the SALT II ceiling, each Soviet warhead, each Soviet bomber, should have painted on its side the name of the man who made it possible: Ronald Reagan.

THOMAS J. DOWNEY

U.S. Representative (D-N.Y.)

Mr. Evans and Mr. Novak claim U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded that the Soviet Union has "fully deployed close to 200 SS16 ICBMs" in violation of SALT II.

My first thought was, "What did they expect?" The Reagan administration officials who plant their stories with the columnists have prevented ratification of SALT II. If they think the treaty is worthless, what do they care if the Soviets violate it?

My second thought was, "Why would the Russians do this?" The SS16 is the smallest and least accurate of their fourth-generation ICBMs. It doesn't even have a multiple warhead. Since it hasn't been tested for more than half a decade, and the last tests included serious failures, it is their least reliable missile. Even given the Soviet Union's bizarre priorities, it doesn't make sense to spend money on this turkey.

So I placed a call to the Defense Intelligence Agency. No, I was told, the SS16 has not been deployed. No, it has not been tested in many years. Mr. Evans and Mr. Novak are wrong.

My final thought was, "While this was a false alarm, next time it might not be." There are a number of steps the Soviets have the technical capability to take but, because of informal observance of SALT II, they have not taken. Some of these steps, unlike the SS16, would add significantly to their nuclear strength. For example, they can quickly increase the number of warheads on each MIRV ICBM, and